

ELECTION OF SPECIES

Election of Species

The Office Action sets forth a seven-way species election requirement, as follows:

Embodiment 1: Figure 8;

Embodiment 2: Figure 13;

Embodiment 3: Figure 14;

Embodiment 4: Figure 15;

Embodiment 5: Figure 17;

Embodiment 6: Figure 21; and

Embodiment 7: Figure 33.

The Office Action states that the species of Embodiments 1 through 7 are independent or distinct because claims to the different species recite mutually exclusive characteristics of such species. In addition, the Office Action states the species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record. Currently, no claims are identified as being generic.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Embodiment 1. Applicant respectfully submits that at least Claims 25 through 30, 32 through 39 and 41 through 45 are readable on the elected species.

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 25 through 47 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 through 24 have been previously cancelled. Claims 25, 26, 27, 29, 32 through 34, 36, 38, 39, and 42 through 45 have

been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form prior to action on the merits. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been presented.

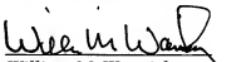
Conclusion

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the application are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fee is required for this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be deemed necessary in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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